

NOV 13 1924 ✓

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"TRIGGER FINGER" ✓

STARRING

BOB CUSTER

✕ NO. 1, of the "Texas Ranger" Series ✕

NOV 13 1924

"TRIGGER FINGER"

Story & Scenario by William Lester ✓

Directed by Reeves Eason ✓

Photographed by

A Jesse Goldberg production

Released by F.B.O.

Released - Nov. 9, 1924.

Footage -

✓ Reels -

X 5 ✓

"TRIGGER FINGERS"

Synopsis

Sergeant Joseph Steele of the Rangers impersonates an outlaw known as "Lightning" Brady just captured to run down the gang of robbers that is devastating the country. The latest holdups has been committed against the Eagle Mining Co., the bandits getting away with a whole pack-train shipment of uncut opals. Suspicions have been cast against an inferior outlaw, Bob Murtison and his gang, living on a ranch close by. Steele, as Brady, rides into the little western town of Curazo, tears down all posters of reward for the capture of "Lightning" Brady. The sheriff and a posse give chase to Steele, which leads Steele directly to the Murtison ranch, where he is protected because of his supposed identity. That night he awakes to find he is in the house alone, the gang having mysteriously departed. He follows blindly, but too late to observe a second holdup of the Eagle Co. On his return to the ranch he passes a dark cabin before which are tethered three horses. Investigating, he sees on the floor of the cabin, a dead man. He enters the place cautiously only to find a dark figure bending over a helpless man in the corner. The figure, hearing Steele, whirls and fires at him. The next moment, a galloping horse signifies that the fugitive is fleeing. The helpless figure in the corner proves to be Ezra Dearing, lying speechless and totally paralyzed. He tries to question the man with written messages but is interrupted by Murtison and Murdock. They still believe Steele to be Brady, accuse him of the crime of killing the man in the room, but offer to keep silent if he will tell them what he has done with "Stone". Steele gets his cue and offers an exchange of information. Murtison confesses robbery of the Eagle pack-train, and the dead man was the one who had the opals in charge. Steele then pulls his gun on them, holding them at bay until he reaches his horse outside and gallops away.

At daybreak Steele returns to find the dead man's body has been removed. He looks after Dearing, gives him food and water, and again when he tries to question the old man he is interrupted by the arrival of the sheriff, a doctor and Dearing's niece, Ruth Dearing. Steele, who hides in a closet, is found by the deputy. He makes a spectacular, but comic, escape. The sheriff believes that Brady as Steele is now known, is responsible for the latest Eagle robbery; also Dearing's plight.

An Indian girl is sent by the doctor to help Ruth. She is in love with Murtison and when she sees Murtison's admiring glances cast toward Ruth, her jealousy is roused. She remonstrates with Murtison as he is leaving the cabin and Murtison starts choking the girl. Steele, riding by, sees the attack, and rescues the girl from Murtison. Murtison's cruelty and knocks Murtison down. Ruth arrives after Murtison's departure and sees Steele pick up the Indian girl in his arms and hears her promise that she will never forget. Thru the girl, Steele fetches an old Indian medicine man who attempts to revive Dearing with Indian ceremonies. The doctor arrives during the scene and orders Steele and the old Indian away. Steele becomes puzzled at the doctor's manner and the old Indian tells him the white doctor "no good - don't want old man to recover".

Ruth goes riding with Murtison, but Murtison has purposely dropped a note from his pocket on the cabin floor before leaving. The Indian girl finds the note and gives it to Steele, who arrives to see

Dearing. The note is a girl's handwriting, and bears information that "Lightning" Brady is a ranger and dangerous ending with the words - "Get him and all you ask is yours". It is unsigned, but Since Steele has already told Ruth that he is not an outlaw, but a Ranger when begging her to trust him, he believes that Ruth has written the note to Murtison. Steele follows Ruth and Murtison and later Ruth is made to realize by Murtison the trap he has laid for Steele. She is told that she must greet Steele, who is seen on the lower trail, and lure him on to a spot where Murtison and one his henchmen will make him captive. Ruth gets an inspiration and by a method of sign flashes with a hand mirror, which she has in her vanity case, she signals him to stop. He doubles back on his trail, with the hope of surprising his ambushers. Ruth tries to escape on her horse, but is stopped by Murtison. Steele comes to the rescue, saves Ruth and instructs her to gallop on to the cabin and if danger comes to have the Indian girl signal him.

Murtison and his henchmen, as much in fear of being their own Chief, "The Black Hawk" as Steele, hide themselves in their hangout. Steele out-wits them, overpowers them in a fight and handcuffs them. Murtison threatens him with the vengeance of the "Black Hawk". From the hangout, Steele sees the Indian girl's signal from the direction of the Dearing cabin.

The doctor arrived at the cabin shortly after Ruth's return and from her learns of Steele's escape from Murtison's frameup. He shows his true nature, throws Ruth in a corner and starts to work on Dearing. By a manipulation of certain nerve centers, he restores Dearing's speech and orders him to tell where the opals are hid. Dearing, refuses and the doctor threatens to make Ruth a victim of his mal-practise if Dearing doesn't talk. Dearing pleads he really does not know the hiding place of the loot for they had already been concealed by the outlaw, who was killed before he talked with him. The Indian girl, seeing these things take place in the cabin, has built a fire outside to signal Steele. The doctor sees what the girl is doing, pulls his gun, fires and kills her. When Steele arrives the house is in darkness. Taking a long chance he enters the cabin, surprises the doctor by a clever entrance. In the fight, Steele throws the doctor against the wall. A board is loosened by the contact and the uncut opals are revealed in the cavity. The doctor is revealed as "The Black Hawk". Dearing recovers and Ruth and Steele are married.

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Dated at Washington, D.C.
Nov. 13, 1924

Register of Copyrights,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

48786 NOV 13 '24

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(Sept., 1922-500)

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